

RECKLESS RALPH'S

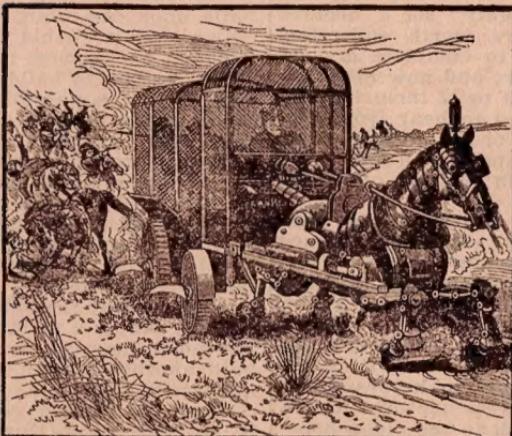
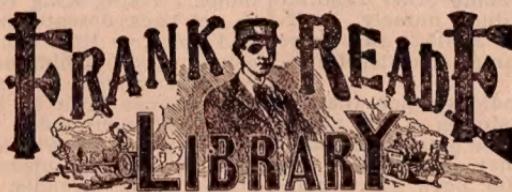
DIME NOVEL ROUNDUP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.
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MAY, 1936

NO. 50



A thriller from the collection of Frank T. Fries, and a real old timer of the early '90s, and one of the kinds we all crave for. The above cut was loaned to me by our Frankie, of Orrville, Ohio.

OLD-TIME AUTHORS

By Robert H. Smeltzer

There have been a host of authors of boys' stories who adhered closely to what might be termed the "fireside" slant of things; far removed from the type of thrilling, bloodcurdling tales of pirates, Indian atrocities, backwoods hardships, frontier and gold-mining camp episodes, highwaymen, etc., etc.

Such stories dealt with the upward and onward climb of poor boys to

heights of wealth and glory, and were intended to be inspirational in their very essence.

Pick up such a novel and you will find therein a true picture of those by-gone days—so much changed nowadays—and the hardships of the poor boys—many "bound" boys, or call them apprenticed for a number of years; many times against their will and tied down to disagreeable tasks. The fathers then were not very lenient, and I recall one case, retold to me by my

father, where one of his boy friends, upon receiving the sad news decided that he had something to say and forthwith left home and enlisted in the Civil War, never to return home again. It broke his mother's heart, and she often poured out her grief to my father who was then a boy. After the war father met the young man, but found him unrelenting, which to say the least was a very sad case, especially as concerned his dear mother.

The two outstanding authors of this regime were Oliver Optic and Horatio Alger, Jr. Then, some other familiar names come to mind, namely J. T. Trowbridge, Elijah Kellogg, and there were others, the names of which I cannot recall offhand.

I am of the candid opinion that as time flies by the stories of the above named authors will be much in demand for the reason they constitute one phase of writing for boys which cannot be overlooked or denied.

Quite recently, in looking over my "Boys' Home Weekly" set I decided they positively are worth collecting, and so I am out to complete my set from start to finish, and now need only numbers 5, 9, 29 to 32 inclusive and 35. I shall be glad to hear from any reader having any or all of these numbers in perfect shape (as all mine are) and offer good cash or swap offers for same.

Pluck and Luck and Fame and Fortune (this weekly especially) issued many of these "homey" stories. Too, the story paper, Golden Days, made a specialty of such homespun yarns. They really are worth while, being a true delineation of the times and the folks of those days, not forgetting the ordeals gone thru by our heroes, humble though they were pictured to be. They take one back to the olden horse-and-wagon and hitching post days, when flourished the pump in the yard, sleigh-rides, Thanksgiving and Christmas times of the past, not forgetting the goodies which ma and grandma were wont to revel in serving up to us; and many more interesting phases of the golden past.

So I admonish the present-day collectors not to frown down on them; they are due to come into their own sooner or later.

OLD KING BRADY

By Geo. H. Cordier

(Continued from March Issue)

"Poor country, this," remarked Har-

ry. "Well I should say it was," growled Jack Peters. "A man might better be dead than stuck down here."

"Now, there is where you are both wrong," said Old King Brady. "I have been all over this section years ago, although I don't claim any knowledge of this particular swamp. The land is astonishingly rich, and with this mild climate these low-lying tracts properly drained, could easily be reclaimed, and southwestern Arkansas converted into the world." Another little bit, lifted from "The Bradys Among the Mormons." Young King Brady determined to get back downtown, but just as he had come to that conclusion, he perceived ahead of him, on the side of the road away from the lake shore, a low stone house built in the old Mormon style, and surrounded by a high adobe wall, on top of which broken bottles and all sorts of pieces of glass were cemented in. In olden times before the days of the Union Pacific railroad in Utah, the Mormon houses were all built upon one plan, which is so peculiar that it should be described. A Mormon on his first marriage was required by law to build himself a house, and as soon as possible to abandon the home of his parents and take possession with his wife. This house was seldom more than one story high, although there might be as many rooms as were desired upon the ground floor. The front was plainness itself, and the door was always at the side, a hallway opening from it communicating with the different rooms. All windows were in front and at the sides, the rear presenting simply a solid wall. When the Mormons married a second wife, he built another section to his house immediately behind the first, which was reached by another door and hallway. If he married a third time, another section was built, and another door and hallway added, and so one for as many wives as he chose to marry."

Another description from "The Black Hounds Also In Secret Service." The signal given, the launch started, shooting up Coyote Canyon which must now be described. The formation of these canyons in and around Colorado mask the effects of mighty convulsions of nature in ages long passed. Many claim that all were washed out by water, but it would seem as though a single glance at these mighty rifts in the Rocky Mountains would be enough to satisfy the ordinary mind that such cannot be the fact, and that the formation of these canyons is due largely to a shrinkage of the earth's

surface, owing to volcano action." The foregoing little bits of description, illustrate Daughtry's peculiar talent of utilizing the local color in his stories which invested his tales with a special charm all their own. Daughtry evidently cherished a violent antipathy to members of the medical profession, he having made use of so many of these as the villain in so large a number of his stories.

(To Be Continued)

ODDS AND ENDS

No. 882 Beadle's Dime Library. Title: The Three Bills—Buffalo Bill, Wild Bill and Bandbox Bill. Query of Bob Smeltzer? Who was Bandbox Bill? The sub-title is The Bravo in Broadcloth.

I have two Ivers "Deadwood Dicks," No. 3 "Buffalo Demon," and No. 10 "Omaha Oil." Their fine colored covers are extremely beautiful to say the least. Too bad Westbrook did not duplicate these covers identical with the Ivers.

We seldom find the name of the cover picture artist at the bottom corner of illustration. Artist Burford attached his name to only some of the pictures of the Ivers "Beadle's Frontier"; for instance Nos. 47, 65, and 67. Too bad we know next to nothing about the dime-novel artists. Louis F. Grant turned out many of the "Golden Hours" covers.

The "Bound-to-Win Library," a thick paper-covered novel, running to over 300 pages in some cases; similar in make-up to the "Medal Library" was a dandy, reprinting many of the "Golden Hours" stories of Fred Thorpe, Harry Irving Hancock, Weldon J. Cobb, John de Morgan, etc., etc. No. 1, "The Boy Angus," was penned by William G. Patten. Mr. Patten still "carries on" from his garden home on the banks of the Hudson.

Collectors should prize scraps of real old, sometimes faded, scraps of paper. They come in handy for repairing dime-novels of the dim-misty past. Take this tip from me. And I also garner pieces of all kinds of colored paper for use in repairing colored covers. Very seldom do I need them, but when I do I'm glad I have them.

—BOB SMELTZER.

Hey Fellows, let's help get the words "pairts" (for colored covers) and "greys" (for black and whites) into common use. It makes for saving space in letters, less effort to write a single word repeatedly and no reason why the "dime novel profession" cannot have "trade names" same as any other trade, business or profession. M. Bertrand Couch (Frisco Bert) suggests the above, and I agree with him. Let's all help, hey fellows.—Reckless Ralph.

Through some mistake or other the F's were omitted in the 1936 novel catalog, so here is a list of prices as follows, also a few others:

FRANK READE LIBRARY—Frank Tousey— .10 to \$5.00 1892.
FRANK READE WEEKLY—Frank Tousey .10 to \$4.00 1902.
FAME AND FORTUNE — Frank Tousey— .03 to \$1.50 1905.
FRANK MANLEY'S WEEKLY—
Frank Tousey— .04 to \$2.00 1905.
THE AMERICAN LIBRARY—Street & Smith— .10 to \$5.00 1885.
THE SATURDAY LIBRARY—Geo. Sibley— .10 to \$5.00 1886.

Frank Reade Stories in The Wide-A-Wake Library, written by Harry Enton, are valued at from 25¢ to \$25.00 according to condition, as you all know these are getting scarcer, and are hard to get every day. The No-name Stories are worth from .10 to \$10. As you no doubt know certain libraries and weeklies are getting more scarce than ever before, and before long, they will be impossible to get. Walk into some of your antique stores and see what they'll ask you, far more than what they are catalogued at, and besides they aren't in the best of shape, either.

Say boys, why not write letters of encouragement to the different newspapers that are running The Merrivell Series in their papers? If all do this, the different papers will see that the public is interested, and carry more stories, and also keep reprinting them, for we want to help our friend, Mr. Gilbert Patten all we possibly can; we help him, and he helps us.

Now is the time to get a set of the Early Western Life Series. These thrillers are reprints of the old Beadles Dime Library of 25 to 50 years ago, or thereabouts, get them now, while they last, for I'm sure you will want a set for your collection. Aren't they pips???

Nos.

1. Three Fingered Jack
2. Pirates of the Prairies

3. Death League of the Desert
4. White Falcon, the Renegade
5. Trail of Gold
6. The Black Hills Riders
7. The Red Hawks Nest
8. In the Valley of Shadows
9. Kid (Forest) Kerley
10. The White Rider
11. King Congo From Texas
12. Trappers From Red River
13. Vigilantes of '49
14. The Ghost of Death Canyon
15. The Pony Express Rider
16. The Silent Rifleman

There you are, while they can be had, all in nice condition, and well were the price I am asking for them. Price 25c each, or the set for \$3.25 P.P.

PARTIAL LIST OF H. H. B. MEMBERS FOR 1936

- 1 Ralph F. Cummings, Pleasant St., Grafton, Mass. (President H. H. B.)
- 2 Robert H. Smeltzer, 3432 N. Biddle St., Philadelphia, Pa. (Vice-Pres. H. H. B.)
- 3 Ralph P. Smith, Box 985, Lawrence, Mass. (Advisory Board.)
- 4 J. Edward Leithead, 5018 Catherine St., Philadelphia, Pa. (Advisory Board.)
- 5 George N. Beck, 2114 Scott St., Davenport, Iowa.
- 7 Wm. M. Burns, 15 Cottage St., Rockland, Maine.
- 12 Charles F. Westbrook, E1204 Illinois Ave., Spokane, Wash.
- 21 C. B. Hamilton, 8 Paris St., Norway, Maine.
- 36 George F. Lilly, 76 Clinton Ave. So., Rochester, N. Y.
- 39 H. O. Rawson, 53 Channing St., Worcester, Mass.
- 45 Raymond L. Caldwell, 835 Highland Ave., Lancaster, Pa.
- 48 A Friend.
- 55 Ralph F. Adimare, 39 N. 5th Ave., Mt. Vernon, N. Y.
- 57 Leonard C. Leighter, 89 Perkins St., Brockton, Mass.
- 59 Book Exchange, Station A, Toledo, Ohio.

A list of 1935 members will be mailed to you as soon as they come off the press.

sure the boys are very glad to have you with us. And as soon as we can, we'll print the articles you sent for our paper. Welcome to our order of good fellows, Bill. Thanks also, to Coionel Charles D. Randolph, now made Chief of Scouts, by our new friend, Beaver Bill Giles, for bringing in our new member. We all send our thanks and best regards, to both the Colonel and Beaver Bill.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

BOYS! What do you say if we all write to Street & Smith Corporation, 79 Seventh Ave., New York, and ask them if they will publish a novel about the size of an Army & Navy Weekly or a Tip Top Weekly, 32 pages, with picture on front cover, and reprinting old stories, as by doing this, they won't have to buy any. This might be a good suggestion. What do you say? M. E. Marsh suggests it.

THE ROVER BOYS, B'GOSH

Ho! Ho! another county heard from. This time Ed. Sullivan, editorial writer chants praise upon the delight with which he read The Rover Boys' stories as far back as 1915; ye gods and little fishes, NOT much of a distance across the years for the Brotherhood boys to recall, eh what? The writeup is contained in the Philadelphia Record of August 27th.

Sezze: "The Royer Boys, I remember my first copy; tattered and worn, though it was, because the medium of exchange was five of my best aggies and seven pictures of base ball stars from cigarette packages. Although the binding was loose, the pages were crowded with high adventure."

He also recites how many's the time did his mother's voice ring loud and clear, to bring him from beneath the old cherry (not apple-tree this time) tree, to run this-that-or-the-other er-rand.

"Born twenty years too soon," sezzi, and so say you, brothers. Our novels were packed with excitement "ne plus ultra," and then some.

We've a new honorary member to the Happy Hours Brotherhood. He is Wm. Giles, better known as "Beaver Bill," 1212-14½ St., Rock Island, Ill. Hope you will like us all, Bill, as I'm

Bob Smeltzer.

A LIST OF PAPERS AND MONTHLIES PUB. BY RALPH F. CUMMINGS

CUMMINGS & CLARK'S FLYER—Vol. 1. No. 1. Dec. 1922—Size 6x7, one side only. 200 Printed.

CUMMINGS & CLARK'S FLYER—Vol. 1. No. 2. Jan. 1923—Size 6x9, Four pages. 1000 Printed.

CUMMINGS & CLARK'S FLYER—Vol. 3. No. 5. July 1925—Last No. Published. 1000 Printed.

THE BOOK HUNTER—Vol. 1. No. 1. Sept. 1925. Size 6x9, Four Pages. 1000 Printed.

THE NOVEL HUNTER—Vol. 1. No. 2. Oct. 1925. Size 6x9, Four Pages. 1000 Printed.

THE NOVEL HUNTER—Vol. 4. No. 1. May 1927. Size 6x9, Four Pages. Last No. Pub. 1000 Printed.

THE NOVEL HUNTERS YEAR BOOK For 1926 27 28 29 30 31—250 of each Printed.

THE NOVEL HUNTERS YEAR BOOK—1931 was last No. Pub. Size 6x9—30 to 40 pages.

THE NOVEL HUNTERS VEAR BOOK SUPPLEMENT for 1929. Size 8x11. 10 pages. 50 Printed.

HAPPY HOURS MAGAZINE—Special No. Sept.-Oct. 1930. Size 6x9. 16 pages. 15 Printed.

HAPPY HOURS MAGAZINE—Vol. 4. No. 5. Sept.-Oct. 1930. Size 6x9. 4 pages. 250 Printed.

HAPPY HOURS MAGAZINE—Vol. 4. No. 6. Nov.-Dec. 1930. Size 6x9. Last No. 4 pages. 250 Printed.

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP—Vol. 1. No. 1. Jan. 1931. Size 6x9, 4 pages, 200 Printed.

HAPPY HOURS MAGAZINE—Vol. 1. No. 1. Jan.-Feb. 1925. Reprint. 4 Pages. 200 Printed.

THE NOVEL WORLD—Vol. 1. No. 1. July-Aug. 1932. 4 pages, Size 6x9. 200 Printed.

THE NOVEL WORLD—Vol. 1. No. 4. Jan.-Feb. 1933. 4 pages. Last No. 200 Printed.

RECKLESS RALPH'S DIME NOVEL WORLD—Mar.-Apr. 1933. 4 Pages. 6x9. 200 Printed.

RECKLESS RALPH'S NOVEL WORLD—May-June. 1933. Last No. 200 Pub.

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP—Apr. 1931. Last No. 200 Pub. Vol. 1. No. 4.

RECKLESS RALPH'S DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP—Vo. 1. No. 5. Size 6x9. 200 Printed.

RECKLESS RALPH'S DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP—Still going strong.

RALPH F. CUMMING'S STANDARD DIME & NICKEL NOVEL CATALOGUE 1935-36. Size 6x9.

RECKLESS RALPH'S TWENTY-FIVE CENT NOVEL LIBRARY—Vol. 1. No. 1 1935. 8 Pages. 500 Printed.

Catalogue of Novels For Sale. 1930. No. 1. Size 4x6. 200 Printed.

RECKLESS RALPH'S 1932 CATALOG NO. 2. (Novels for sale, etc.) 6x9. 200 Printed.

'MEMBER THE DETECTIVE WHO COULDN'T SWIM A STROKE?

Send 15c for a photo of him (from a pen-drawing). Also catalog of noted Westerners and the vanished West.

H. O. RAWSON

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WANTED

Spalding or Reach Baseball Guides for the years of 1900-01-02 and 1903. Send list. Fred C. Seely, 300 Delavan Ave., Newark, N. J.

WANTED

Your 50 word ad in the NOVEL ADD SHEET for 25c I'm small but a Puller, try me. Wes. Auger, 9724-117th St., Richmond Hill, N. Y.

W. C. Miller says that he noticed in the back of Magnet Library, that a list of Shield, the Traymore Series, etc., 25c Novels, and says, so it seems, that the old early Secret Servile Series was later called Shield Series, then Magnet. After the price was reduced to ten cents, and the early Sea and Shore, was split up into several series, such as Traymore, Columbia, and Arrow. But the same novels correspond in the different series.

WANTED

The Five Cent Comic Library, Nos. 15, 31, 32, 88, 113. Write—

RALPH F CUMMINGS

WANTED

A story that came out some time in the 80s printed in NEW YORK LEDGER, called "The St. Ahern Grace-cup or Letty Hyde's Lovers."

D. J. COUGHLAN

P. O. Box 143, Fort Dodge, Iowa

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I WILL PAY

\$1.25 each for certain issues of Tip Top Weekly to improve my file, between Nos. 1 and 104. Must be in good shape with original colored covers. Send list, stating exact condition.

J. P. GUINON

Box 214, Little Rock, Ark.

WILL SWAP

On very liberal terms: Many issues of Harper's Young People, years 1881-1893; Harper's Weekly (loose) 1877; 1862 (bound-covers loose); 1878 (covers loose—lacks first issue; several Civil War volumes in nice shape, Trowbridge's "Our Young Folks," nicely bound; "Power of Will," Cooper's works, one set of 11 volumes, one lot of three volumes, rare old-time illustrations; The Athenaeum, 1819, bound and rare; Dublin Register, 1799, bound and rare; Beadle's Dime Library No. 168, Wild Bill The Pistol Dead-shot. Will accept novels, books on the Old West, U. S. stamps cataloguing, Scott's 5c and over.

ROBERT H. SMELTER

3432 North Bodine St., Philadelphia, Pa.